

ARCHITECTURAL PROCEEDINGS
ABROAD.

IN BRUXELLES, during the last two or three years, great efforts have been made to restore ancient buildings. The west front of the church of St. Gudule, at Brussels, which has been in the mason's hands for some time, is now completed. The niches have been re-filled with statues, and all the decayed parts of the stonework renewed. The spire of the Town-hall at Brussels has likewise been repaired, as also have the town-halls of Ghent, Bruges, and Louvain, and several churches in various parts of the country.

The cathedral of TOURNAI, at the western extremity of Belgium, has been restored throughout, under the direction of M. Renard, and is approaching completion. This is one of the most interesting buildings in Belgium, and is well worth a journey to view it. In form it is a Latin cross, with five towers; namely, two at the end of each transept, and one at the centre of the cross. The transept is terminated at each end by a semi-circular apsis. A very remote date has been claimed for Tournai Cathedral by local historians, but it seems to us that the earliest remaining parts belong to the 11th century.

At COLONNE, the works at the cathedral are proceeding steadily, but not so much as to enable us to prophesy an early completion. We are told that the model of the pulpit intended for this cathedral is exhibiting at Berlin, and astonishing the public by its magnificence. The pedestal is a bundle of columns, about two feet in height, imitating in their clustering the pillars which sustain the building. These are terminated by a capital of acanthus leaves and scrolls artistically disposed, out of which spring a system of ribs that embrace the pulpit, developing themselves in exact resemblance to those which climb towards the key-stones of the vault. Bas-reliefs, and niches containing the figures of the benefactors of the cathedral, or saints, constitute the principal decoration of the monument. At its base is Conrad of Hochstaden, and higher up, surrounding the pulpit, the twelve Apostles, and our Saviour bearing the banner of the redemption, and blessing his disciples. The canopies, beneath which these figures stand, form so many little steeples of florid workmanship, in whose upper portions are sculptured the arms of the principal German cities. The pulpit is covered by a sounding-board, on which sit the four Evangelists, with their recognized attributes. Over them, in a carved niche, is the Holy Virgin; and the cupola is closed in by a crown of flowers, on which sculpture has lavished its resources. The pulpit is ascended by a spiral staircase, winding round the pillar before mentioned. We cannot say that we have formed a high opinion of its fitness from this description.

At TREVES, we learn from the *Art-Union* for the present month (an admirable number, full of information), a grand work is in contemplation, which will be one of the most magnificent architectural monuments of modern times; we mean the Roman structure of the so-called Constantine Palace, which, according to the unanimous opinion of the connoisseurs, is the remainder of an ancient colossal basilica. One side-front and a grand round structure of the tribunal of the whole, which, till now, has been made use of for various purposes—at present a barrack—are still existing. Of no ancient basilica are there extant so important and considerable portions, so easily to be restored. From an authentic report it appears that these remains, by an order of the King of Prussia, will be restored in their original condition, and are intended for a church of the united Protestant civil and military commune. This church will vie with the grandest and most beautiful of those which have once been possessed by the primitive Christians, to whom, as we know, basilicas, originally forming courts of justice, were assigned as churches, and which have ever been used as models. The fabric will, after its completion, form a single colossal nave, 180 feet long by 88 broad, and about 100 feet high, with a semi-circular tribunal of 62 feet diameter, separated from the nave by an arch of 59 feet span, with walls 9 feet in thickness, of which the still remaining ones are built of the best Roman bricks; and with a double row of windows, each 12 feet broad. Likewise, by order of the king, the ancient church of

Maximinus, at present forming a barracks, will be restored, and is intended for the temporary use of the Catholic military congregation.

At BERLIN, the inauguration of the new Opera-house, on the 7th of December, has been an event of great moment in the annals of our city. Meyerbeer's inauguration opera—an excellent composition—was received in the splendidly decorated house with much applause and interest by the royal family and an immensely crowded audience. The whole structure is said to have cost 600,000 dollars (87,500l.). The architect was M. Langhans, councillor of the Board of Architects, a son of the architect who built the celebrated Brandenburg Thor (Brandenburg Gate). The Breslaw theatre is one of his buildings, which is little inferior to that of Dresden. The Berlin Opera-house, however, is superior to both, and one of the most magnificent buildings of that description in the world. The lobbies are less splendid; but halls of that kind are generally little made use of in Germany, and deprive the indispensable localities of a theatre of the necessary extent.

At GÖTTINGEN a new art-museum has been established and inaugurated, in commemoration of the celebrated Winklemann. The localities of this museum are on the ground-floor of the university, containing a grand collection of gypsum models, which the late Professor Müller used to employ for the illustration of his lectures on the classical antiquities, together with those which formerly were placed in the rooms of the university library. The university owes most of these treasures to British munificence. Besides these are to be mentioned the Vienna sarcophagus and several reliefs, of which the famous "Sacrifice of the Citharædes" is the most eminent.

At HAMBURG an exhibition of the plans for the re-erection of St. Nicholas' Church has taken place. Thirty-nine architects, German and foreign, have sent for this purpose their works, several of which are reported to be first-rate plans. Nos. 7, 32, 39—the first with the motto, "The success of the work, not its estimation, is its real value;" the second with the motto, "The work, not the architect or master;" the third with the motto, "Labor ipse volutus"—are looked upon as the most eminent. The most valuable is said to be by an Englishman.

The ravages which were committed by the terrible conflagration in May, 1842, are now fast disappearing; and the great improvements which are taking place in consequence of that calamity will, in a few years, obtain for Hamburg a degree of architectural celebrity it would else have hardly aspired to, as it now does, all at once. Many splendid hotels and shops, fitted up in a style of elegance, bespeak a degree of luxury hitherto unthought of at Hamburg. The same may also be said with regard to newly erected private houses, a considerable proportion of which are upon such a scale and of such character as to be suitable only for wealthy families, who can afford to maintain an establishment in accordance with them. Dr. Abendroth's mansion, erected by M. de Chateaufort, who has given the designs for it in his "*Architectura Domestica*" (published a year or two ago in this country), fortunately escaped destruction, although so near the scene of devastation.

STATUE TO MR. GEORGE STEPHENSON.—The directors of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, acting in concert with the Grand Junction Board, have determined upon erecting a marble statue in honour of the above gentleman. It is proposed, that the statue shall be erected in St. George's Hall, Liverpool, now building in front of the Railway Station. The eminent sculptor, Gibson, has been engaged to execute the work, and the price, delivered and set up, is not so exaggerated as 1,800l.

THE FOUNTAIN IN TRAVELLER-SQUARE.—Three long-expected ornaments will soon be put into operation. The boring is complete, and a very good supply of water has been obtained. For several days past the two engines have been employed in raising water, which has been found quite equal to the supply required, and a jet of water has been forced to a height of about 30 feet in one of the basins. During the past week, workmen have been erecting poles, &c., to raise the stones composing the eastern fountain.

DISASTROUS EFFECTS OF THE LATE
STORM.

THE papers during the past week have been teeming with accidents which occurred during the storm of the 25th ultimo.

At Blackburn an entirely new and unfinished mill was blown completely down, the crash of which is stated to have been heard throughout the town as of the sudden discharge of distant artillery. The mill was what is called an "eight bay" mill, the area of the spinning part of the premises being 60 feet by 20 feet in extent, and the mill four stories high. Attached to the spinning-mill was an engine house, next to that a large boiler room, and then came an extensive foundry-shed. The first floor of the mill was completed, the boards of the other floors were not down, all the windows were in, and the mill roofed over. The engine house was arched over, and the boiler room covered in. In these two latter places the buildings were partly iron; great iron beams from 15 to 18 inches across, were erected in the engine-house; the roof, &c., of the boiler room was supported by iron pillars, stout iron bars, &c.

It appears that at about a quarter-past nine o'clock, some men employed upon the premises, and living close by, observed one of the walls of the mill to bulge out; and they were discussing the readiest means of propping it up, when the whole end wall of the mill, against which the full force of the wind bore, was seen to bend inwards, and becoming thus loosened from the roof, the latter was lifted up by the wind, and falling back again with great violence, went to pieces, and carried down to the foundation every thing with it. The destruction was instantaneous and complete; part only of some of the walls remaining. The roof, first floor, beams, supporters, and the walls that fell with the roof were all smashed to pieces. The roofs of the engine-house and boiler room were destroyed, the thick iron beam girds being broken like glass. Part of the roof of the foundry shed was destroyed, as also part of some premises adjoining another side of the mill. The damage done cannot be calculated at less than 2,000l. Upwards of 300l. worth of glass was destroyed. It is said that the whole building was not to be surpassed for strength and compactness in Blackburn. In a short time the three upper floors would have been put in, and then this disastrous accident could hardly have happened.

At Derby various buildings sustained considerable injury, the Messrs. Holmes, coach-makers, had just completed the erection of a large chimney on their premises, for the purpose of having steam applied to a part of their extensive establishment, the building of which had been intrusted to Mr. Edwin Thompson. This chimney was 60 feet high, and was only waiting for the iron capping. It was surrounded by a very heavy and substantial scaffolding, a circumstance which there is every reason to believe to a considerable extent contributed to produce the accident which we have to record. On the night mentioned above, fears were entertained that the chimney so largely encompassed with scaffolding (and which had been round it for some time past, awaiting the finishing of the chimney from the cause alluded to, that of the east iron capping), was in danger of falling from the severity of the gale, and as early as between 5 and 6 o'clock on Sunday morning, Mr. E. Thompson went to ascertain how far this really was the case. When there the tremendous squalls of wind waved the ponderous mass of woodwork to and fro in a very alarming manner; so much so as to induce those persons who resided in the house immediately connected with Messrs. Holmes's premises, to leave them immediately, though the chimney itself appeared entirely unmoved. Fortunately, indeed, was it the residents did quit them, for at a quarter-past 6 o'clock 40 feet of the 60 feet chimney fell with a terrific crash on one side of the roofs of the five houses, literally cutting them in two, and demolishing them to the very foundations, and destroying every piece of furniture they contained.

At Chesterfield three or four pinnacles were blown down from the tower of St. Thomas's Church, and burst through the roof, destroying the gallery, and doing considerable injury to the church. Fortunately, divine service had not commenced, otherwise a fearful loss of life must have ensued, as the children of the Sunday school occupy that part of the edifice